

State Schools for Severely Handicapped

Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

"Making a positive difference through education and service"

General Information

The State Schools for Severely Handicapped is a statewide public school system serving Missouri students with severe disabilities. Established by state law in 1959, the State Schools serve children and youth between the ages of 5 and 21.

The State Schools are administered by the State Board of Education, through the Division of Special Education. The school system is supported primarily by funds appropriated each year by the Missouri Legislature. The central offices for the superintendent of the State Schools, along with other supervisory staff, are headquartered in Jefferson City. Area offices are located in Sedalia, St. Louis and Springfield. Area directors' work with the State Schools located in their service areas.

The State Schools for Severely Handicapped serve students with severe disabilities throughout the state. Students are referred to the State Schools when a local school district is unable to meet a student's educational needs and have developed justification reflecting that placement in a separate school is the most appropriate and least restrictive education environment to meet the student's identified needs.

Who is Served?

All students enrolled in the State Schools have significant cognitive deficits as defined by Regulation XI of the Missouri State Plan for Special Education: Regulations Implementing Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Many of the students also have other disabilities challenging their ability to receive appropriate education and related services in their local district program.

Instructional Staff

The State Schools employ classroom teachers who are certified to teach students with severe disabilities. Each classroom has at least one full-time aide assigned to assist the teacher and students.

The State Schools employ physical education teachers and speech and language therapists. These educators may work in one school, or travel to multiple schools, depending on the size of the schools. Occupational, physical, and some speech therapists provide therapy on a contractual basis, depending on the needs of each school.

The State Schools employ registered nurses. Depending upon size of school and student needs, some schools have a full-time nurse assigned and some schools provide nursing services on a scheduled basis. The State Schools employ supervisors for instruction who work with State Schools personnel to plan and to improve the instructional program. The supervisors for instruction also provide Outreach Services to local school districts.

Facilities

The facilities have been specifically designed and built for State Schools to accommodate the instructional program. These facilities range in size from small to large school settings depending upon the number of students served. State Schools are administered by either a full-time principal or a “teacher in charge,” as appropriate for the number of classrooms at the school.

Curriculum

The State Schools provide a six-hour day school instructional program. The majority of State Schools students live with their natural or foster parents and are transported by bus to and from school each day at no charge.

The State Schools provide a full range of instructional services designed to promote functional learning of essential skills for each student. An Individualized Education Program (IEP) is developed for each student. The student’s IEP may be implemented in the State Schools classroom, the community and, when appropriate, through integration activities at the local school district. The IEP Goals align with the Show-Me Standards in the following areas:

- Communication Arts
- Mathematics
- Science
- Social Studies
- Health/Physical Education
- Fine Arts

The staff of the State Schools use a transdisciplinary approach to teaching and other services. This approach allows all members of the professional team (teachers, therapists, nurses, etc.) to exchange information and training so that all services are integrated into the daily instructional program.

**For more information about State Schools
for Severely Handicapped, contact:**

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2.5% of the financial support for the State Schools for Severely Handicapped
program is received from IDEA and other federal funding sources.

The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education complies with the Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Civil Rights Act of 1991, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Services are provided without regard to race, color, national origin, sex or physical or mental disability.

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D. Kent King, Commissioner of Education

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